

THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

The election of Dr. William Allen Pusey as president-elect of the American Medical Association is a recognition not only of leadership in a specialty of medicine, but also of personal service to the American Medical Association and to medical science. Dr. Pusey was born in Elizabethtown, Hardin county, Ky., December 1, 1865, son of Dr. Robert B. and Belle Brown Pusey. It is interesting to know that in 1922 Dr. Pusey presented a tablet to his native county as a memorial to Lincoln's foster mother, for Abraham Lincoln was born on a farm in Hardin county. The great-grandfather of Dr. Pusey, William Brown, mapped the road from the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky. Dr. Pusey received the A. B. degree from Vanderbilt university in 1885, the A. M. in 1886 and the M. D. from the Medical College of New York university in 1888. The following year he began practice in Chicago. From 1894 to 1915 he was professor of dermatology in the University of Illinois School of Medicine and since that time has been emeritus professor. He has been dermatologist at St. Luke's and Augustana hospitals, and was president of the American Dermatological Association in 1910 and of the Chicago Medical Society, 1918-1919. During the war he rendered conspicuous service to the Government as chairman of the committee on venereal diseases in the surgeon general's office, outlining the plan of attack on these diseases and aiding in the preparation of the "Manual of Treatment of Venereal Disease," which was issued to every physician in the United States. He is author of "The Roentgen Rays in Therapeutics and Diagnosis," of a textbook, "The Principles and Practice of Dermatology," which has passed through several editions, of "Syphilis as a Modern Problem" and of numerous periodical articles concerning diseases within his specialty. During 1922 he published "The Wilderness Road to Kentucky," in which he described the mapping of the road and its present condition as found on a personal trip which he made throughout its length. In 1910 he first described the use of solidified carbon dioxide, so-called "carbon dioxide snow," in the treatment of diseases of the skin. To the American Medical Association Dr. Pusey has rendered long, continued service. He was chairman of the section on diseases of the skin in 1909. From 1911 to 1922 he was treasurer of the Association. Since its foundation in 1920 he has been an editor of the Archives of Dermatology and Syphilology, published by the association. In electing him to leadership the American Medical Association has recognized a man known for scientific ability in his chosen field, for executive ability as demonstrated by his work on important committees and councils, and for scholarship as exemplified by contributions to both medical and lay literature. It may confidently look to him to continue the promotion of the high ideals for which the association stands.—Journal A. M. A., July 7, 1923.

SAN FRANCISCO SESSION

The annual session of the American Medical Association in 1923 at San Francisco was a notable demonstration of the advance which medical science has made in the western part of the United States in the brief period since the Association met in the same place eight years ago. The registration (3765) exceeded by almost 1500 the registration at the 1915 meeting. In view of the distances traveled by those attending the convention, including even those from Western States, this large registration is a remarkable testimony to the work of the association on the Pacific Coast.

A conspicuous feature of the San Francisco session is the fact that not only the exhibits and the meeting of the House of Delegates were held in the Civic Auditorium, but also the meetings of all of the sections. This enabled the fellows to go

rapidly from one meeting to another and permitted selection of the various papers in the various sections which were of particular interest to the individual physicians. The scientific program was noteworthy for the advanced character of the subjects discussed. None of the newer procedures in diagnosis and treatment seems to have been overlooked. Of particular interest were symposiums on diet, on the mental health of the child and on preventive medicine, which attracted large numbers. The unusual feature of this meeting was the extensive publicity given to the work of the association, not only by the press of San Francisco, but also by newspapers throughout the country. All the local papers assigned special staffs to cover the meeting and devoted from two to three pages each day to reports of the session. Physicians of California expressed the belief that the information thus given to the public through the lay press would be of great service in combating the advertising of the nonmedical cults, which has been particularly obnoxious in that State.

The main hall of the Civic Auditorium was occupied by the scientific and commercial exhibits. In the scientific exhibit special arrangements had been made to demonstrate particularly problems associated with the diagnosis and prevention of disease, and large numbers of persons constantly availed themselves of the opportunity to receive first-hand demonstrations of newer procedures in these fields. The motion picture theater, a part of the scientific exhibit, was likewise devoted primarily to diagnosis and was constantly attended by from 300 to 500 persons. In view of the distance to be traveled, the extent and scope of the commercial exhibits was a demonstration of the interest taken in the annual session by the manufacturers of drugs and foods, by the makers of apparatus and by medical publishers. Every foot of available space was occupied, and exhibitors expressed themselves as more than satisfied with the attention given to the displays.

In a special resolution, the House of Delegates of the Association tendered its thanks to the local committee of arrangements for the excellence of preparation and the thorough efficiency in its conduct of the meeting. As has been said, the main meeting hall is especially adapted to sessions of the association. The opening meeting was held in an auditorium seating more than 6000 persons, and every available space was occupied. The president's reception was held in the three ballrooms of the Fairmont hotel and was an exceptionally well-arranged, beautiful, and entertaining feature. Women visitors were provided with drives about the beautiful environs of the city, and a concluding event was the reception at Stanford university by President and Mrs. Ray Lyman Wilbur.

The climate of California justified its well-known reputation for evenness and salubrity. The weather during the entire meeting was clear and the range of temperature varied but a few degrees.

The sessions of the House of Delegates were fully and closely attended. As is shown by the minutes printed last week and continuing through the issues of this and next week, many problems of importance to the association and to the public welfare received careful consideration. Attention is directed particularly to the actions taken relative to amendments to the constitution and by-laws of the association.

The description would not be complete without mention of two unusual features. Through the local committee of arrangements, plans were made for clinics before and after the session. These clinics, held throughout the entire Pacific Coast and western States, carry the scientific work of the association to many who were unable to register at the meeting. In order to convey an adequate view of medical California an extensive volume was prepared describing the work of the annual session and the medical features of every county in the State.—Journal A. M. A., July 7, 1923.